

LIBRARY

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for

T H E Y E A R 1946

of

T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

of

H E A L T H.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

My report for the past year is written under some difficulty owing to the fact that there was a change of Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There have been no marked changes under this heading.

There are, however, one or two matters on which I should like to comment. With the size of the Borough increasing and likely to increase it is necessary to provide more out-of-doors amenities for the young and not so young. These should include more tennis courts - one rather indifferent court is not enough - bowling-greens and another playing-field for children. Far too many children still seem to do most of their playing in the streets, to the danger of themselves and the annoyance of other residents in the neighbourhood.

Incidentally, though I suppose this does not directly concern me, it is surprising how many children of school-age seem to be about the town during school hours.

Another problem that is proving increasingly difficult is that of the "Chronic Sick". This is a different problem from that of the aged and infirm to which I have drawn attention in previous reports. By "Chronic Sick" I mean those cases which really need institutional Treatment, but which owing to the chronicity or incurability of their complaints cannot possibly be accomodated in the ordinary hospitals as they would occupy beds which are urgently needed for acute or curable cases. Such difficulties are constantly arising and it is to be hoped that the hospital provisions under the new Act will provide a solution.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.	721.
Inhabited Houses, (end of 1945).	1,114.
Rateable Value.	£18,234-10- 0.
Product of one penny rate.	£71- 2- 6.

Vital Statistics.

Population (estimated).	3,593.
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		M.	F.	Total.	
	Legitimate	40	36	76	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population 23.3
<u>Live Births.</u>	Illegitimate	5.	3	8	
<u>Still Births.</u>		1.	1.	2.	Rate per 1,000 births 23.2
<u>Deaths.</u>		33	22	55	Death-rate per 1,000 15.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. nil.
2. Other causes. nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Legitimate.	6.	Total.	6.
Illegitimate.	0.		

All infants per 1,000 live births.	72.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	10.
. Measles (all ages).	nil.
. Whooping Cough (all ages).	nil.
. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	1.

The birth-rate is substantially the same as last year and is still above that for England & Wales for which the figure is 19.1

The death-rate is also above that for England & Wales for which the figure is 11.5.

Cardiovascular diseases easily accounted for the highest number of deaths - 22 in all.

Cancer ranked second with 10 and tuberculosis third with 6.

The Infant Mortality rate is again high, almost exactly the same as for last year and apparently for the same reason- the predominance of congenital malformation and defects.

Against this we can feel satisfaction at the absence of any deaths from puerperal causes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blamey, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Oxon).. (Part time).
Also District Medical Officer under Public Assistance
Authority and Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector. For the first part of the year J.A.Yates,
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board).
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
Certificate in Sanitary Science etc.

For the remainder of the year A.A.Reid., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
A.M.I.S.E.,

We have had a change of Sanitary Inspectors who combines this appointment with that of Borough Surveyor, three times in the last four years. This, though it is probably unavoidable is most undesirable and mitigates against efficiency.

It is to be hoped that in the very important work that lies ahead there will be more continuity in this department.

The work of the Health Visitor has again proved to be a great asset. The attendances of Mothers and Babies at the Infant Welfare Centre has shown a steady advance as has the consumption of Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice by those entitled to it.

I need not emphasize how important this is in these days of reduced rations.

There is a school clinic at which minor ailments are dealt with and any other abnormal conditions referred to the patients doctors.

By means of a well attended Infant Welfare Centre, School Clinics and Medical Inspection of School Children the health of the young- the life blood of a nation - is safeguarded from birth to adolescence and any divergence from the normal discovered and dealt with in the early stages.

Rats & Mice Destruction.

The Rodent Operator, Mr.G.Dunstan, was appointed to replace Mr.Trevithick who was unfit to carry out his duties. He is well trained and efficient. The systematic survey of the area was continued, and so far no seriously infested areas are defined. There are a number of areas where slight infestation has been recorded. Rat destruction and survey continues.

Estimated number of inspections and re-inspections . . . 1,527

<u>Premises Treated.</u>	<u>Estimated Kill.</u>	<u>No. of Bodies.</u>
Dwellings & gardens. . . 115.	801.	76.
Factory premises. . . 13.	134.	16.
Allotments. 1.	12.	8.
Refuse Dump 1.	265.	57.
	<u>1,212.</u>	<u>157.</u>

Water Supply.

The Mains supply is satisfactory, but there were three supplies to houses (2 springs and one shallow well) which were suspicious and samples were taken. As a result one house has been supplied with town water brought by iron pipe over a distance of a quarter of a mile. The other samples proved satisfactory.

Samples taken as under :-

<u>Well.</u> "Woodhouse", Truro Hill. (2).	Satisfactory.
<u>Stream.</u> Rear of houses, Tremoughdale.	do.
<u>Shallow hole in ground.</u> Adjacent to Co-Op Creamery.	Unsatisfactory.
<u>Pump.</u> Connected to shallow well at rear of Townsend House.	Satisfactory.

Samples taken frequently from the mains supply have invariably proved satisfactory and I attach a typical analyst's report taken at random from the many received.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
(Thresh, Beale & Suckling).

Roy.C.Hoather, B.Sc., 66, Victoria Street, Tele: VICTORIA 5838/9
Ph.D., F.R.I.C., M.R.San.I LONDON, S.W.L. Telegrams: SPOROGENES
Medical Director: G.J.Laws, B.A Phone, London.
M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Ref: B/EP/90

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER from FALMOUTH CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

Labelled Tap in Tallacks Store, Low level Water Supply

Taken by W.S.H.Brooks. Witness D.T.Anthony. Signed W.S.H.Brooks.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance bright with very few particles of mineral debris.

Turbidity (Silica Scale) Less than 5.

Colour (Hazen) Faint yellow brown Odour nil.
14.

Reaction pH on the acid side of Free Carbon Dioxide 4
neutrality 6.9

Electric Conductivity at 20°C 145. Total Solids, Dried at 180°C 100

Chlorine in Chlorides 24 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 20

Hardness: Total 40 Carbonate (Temporary) 20 Non/carbonate 20
(Permanent)

Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.0 Nitrogen in Nitrites Absent

Free Ammonia 0.006 Oxygen absorbed
in 4 hrs at 27°C 1.75

Albuminoid Ammonia 0.11 Free Chlorine Reaction Absent

Metals Iron 0.03 Other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove free chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling).

Number of Colonies { 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C 3 days @ 20°C
developing on Agar { 1. 1. 2.
per cc. or ml. in {

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Absent from 100 ml.

Bact. coli. Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is almost neutral in reaction but the pH is lower than desirable. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It shows only a trace of colour, is of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Gordon Miles.
for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
(Thresh, Beale & Suckling)

Roy C. Hoather, B.Sc., 66, Victoria Street, Tele: VICTORIA 5838/9
Ph.D., F.R.I.C., M.R.San.I LONDON, S.W.1. Telegrams: SPOROQUES
Medical Director: G.J. Laws, B.A. Phone, London.
M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Ref: B/EP/40

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER from FALMOUTH CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

Labelled Tap in High Level Meter House, Water in supply.

Taken by W.S.H. Brooks. Witness D.T. Anthony. Signed W.S.H. Brooks.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance bright with very few particles of mineral debris.

Turbidity (Silica Scale) Less than 5

Colour (Hazen) Faint yellow brown Odour Nil.
11.

Reaction pH on the alkaline side of Free Carbon Dioxide Trace.
neutrality 8.1

Electric Conductivity at 20°C 155 Total solids, Dried at 180°C 105

Chlorine in Chlorides 24 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 25.

Hardness Total 45 Carbonate (Temporary) 25 Non/carbonate 20
(Permanent)

Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.8 Nitrogen in Nitrates Absent
Oxygen absorbed

Free Ammonia 0.006 in 4 hrs at 27°C 1.40

Albuminoid Ammonia 0.090 Free Chlorine Reaction Absent.

Metals Iron 0.04 Other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove free chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

Number of Colonies { 1 day at 37°C 2 days at 37°C 3 days at 20°C
developing on Agar { 3 3 2
per cc. or ml. in {

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Absent from 100 ml.

Bact. coli. . . Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, very faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It shows only a trace of colour, is of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Gordon Miles,

for THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

HOUSING ACT, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - Inspections.

Houses were inspected on complaint and notices served where necessary. Owners co-operated reasonably well, and repairs carried out formed a high percentage.

Number of dwellings inspected	55.	Number of Informal Notices	60.
Number of Statutory Notices	17.	Number of Notices complied with.	26.

War Damaged Dwellings and Properties.

Licences issued for £6347-4-6 and most of this work was executed up to 31st: December 1946.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Sampling.

Twelve samples taken. Appropriate action taken where samples were not satisfactory and warnings issued.

Dairies and Farms.

Regular inspections were made and a high standard of cleanliness was found to exist in most farms.

Milk.

C.W.S. Creamery. The quantity of milk dealt with at this plant is about 17,000 gallons per day. Most of this milk is collected direct from the farms and taken to the dairy.

All milk is pasteurised on the premises. The type of plant used is a "Positive Holder".

On arrival at the Creamery the milk is tipped into a receiving tank, pumped from thence to a balancing tank and thence gravitates throughout the plant. The milk is held at a temperature of about 150°F and then rapidly cooled to 38°F. After bottling it is put into cold storage at about 40°F. Some is delivered to the retail branches the same day, but the majority is delivered the following morning.

Washing & Sterilising. Churns are washed by hand, first in cold water and then in hot, the water in such case containing a detergent - Finally the churns are sterilised by steam jets.

Used bottles are washed in a special plant which gives a cold-water rinse, followed by hot water and a detergent under pressure and finally another cold-water rinse.

Similar methods are adopted for cleansing and sterilising the pipe lines, receiving tanks and coolers.

Water supply, upon which I have commented before, is piped from a stream at the rear of the dairy and though this stream is liable to pollution the chlorinating plant which has been in use up to now has been able, apparently, to cope with any ordinary pollution. I understand that the new plant, which will have been in action before this report is published, will be even more efficient and should allay any qualms one has had in the past on this score.

Frequent samples of milk have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and they have invariably been satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

Nothing fresh to report under this heading. People still continue to use neighbouring streams as means of refuse disposal and it is almost impossible to stop this practice altogether, but there have been no instances of major pollutions - if we exclude our own sewerage disposal system !

Bed-bugs.

I have received no reports of any official action under this head.

Unfit Foods.

Evaporated Milk	16.	14½ oz tins.
"Del Monte" Fruit Cocktails	4.	1 lb. 14oz tins
Poulton & Noel's Beans	1.	Size 1s Tall.
Sardines	2.	30 mm. tins.
Dates.	54.	lbs.
Baked Beans.	1.	1 lb tin.
Cod.	1.	Box.
Haddock. (Dried)	2	Boxes.
Stewed Steak.	1.	16 oz tin.
M & V Ration.	1.	16 oz tin.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Many defective drains and water closets have been dealt with during the year, and investigation of the overloading of sewers in Commercial Road, St Thomas Street and College Ope areas show that larger sewers will be a necessity before the housing programmes are finished.

150 ft of new 9" sewer was laid to replace an old stone culvert previously used as a sewer in the Church Hill area.

Flooding.

Further improvement was carried out following flooding in College area in September 1946, and the culvert was opened and enlarged over a distance of 60 feet near its outfall.

No further flooding has occurred and it is satisfying to note that this culvert withstood the heaviest recorded rainfall, 15.83 inches, during March, 1947 without flooding.

House Refuse Collection and Salvage.

This service continues to be satisfactory, but it is felt that the provision of more and better dustbins can improve the sanitary conditions. A big drive is being made to secure owners co-operation in supplying new covered dustbins, and a great number have been provided.

Caravan Sites.

One caravan site existed for three months on the Falmouth Road. Inspected and found to be clean and satisfactory. Caravan now left area.

New Houses.

College No.1. Site (20 Houses). Progress on the Council Housing Schemes was delayed by many things - weather, shortages of labour and materials - but by 31st: December, 20 houses were started at College No.1 Site, sewers and primary road works completed, 6 houses roofed in and a great deal of ground work carried out.

College No.2 Site. (6 Houses). Road works commenced in November 1946, and satisfactory progress made on roads and sewers.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Whooping Cough.	15.
Diphtheria.	3.
Measles.	2.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Pneumonia.	1.

I think it will be agreed that this is a very satisfactory record. The only item calling for comment being the 3 cases of diphtheria. These were all in young adults - 2 being in the same house. They were sent at once to the County Isolation Hospital and proved to be mild cases though the organisms cultured from their throats were of a high degree of virulence. The fact that no further cases occurred when there was considerable opportunity for young children who had been contacts to have developed the complaint emphasises the efficiency of effective immunisation. I am glad to say that these protective inoculations have been carried out regularly and steadily and there are only a very small percentage of children in the Borough who are unprotected, owing to the refusal of their parents to avail themselves of this possible life-saving advance in preventive medicine.

Ambulance services have been entirely satisfactory and I should like to pay special tribute to the extremely prompt and efficient manner in which the Penryn St John's Ambulance has invariably responded to calls. It seems a great pity that under the new Act we seem likely to be deprived of this very personal and efficient service.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 3 new cases notified during the year. All were pulmonary - 2 being females aged 30 and 17 respectively and 1 a male aged 16 years. There were 5 deaths - 3 from pulmonary disease - all males aged 38 and 27 years and one aged 9 months - and 2 from non-pulmonary disease - both males.

Notification has been satisfactory, as has also liaison with the County Tuberculosis Officer.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLAMEY.

May 1947

